

FEBRUARY 2021

# ALBERTA ELKS NEWS

## Presidents Message



Dear Brothers & Sisters....

2021 has arrived...as have the COVID 19 Immunizations. Recognizing that the distribution of the immunizations is different in various areas, we are very hopeful that everyone who can receive it does so before our planned Conference in June 2021 in Brooks Alberta.

Even if there remain restrictions, the Alberta Elks Association is working with Grand Lodge to organize options for holding Conference, which may include a limited registration of participants in person, the ability of Elks and Royal Purple Elks to attend virtually and even VOTE using our cell phones!

No...this is not the way we **WANT** to hold Conference, but it may be the way we **MUST**. Everyone knows how much we value our get-togethers at Spring and Fall Meetings, Conferences and Convention. However, the safety of our health is too important to risk.

Speaking of Spring Meetings.... The Alberta Elks Association has purchased the license for ZOOM meetings and is able to share it with any Lodge or District interested in using it ... FREE!

In fact, the District Deputies have been asked to work with our Association secretary, Lynda Petten to acquire the skill they need to organize ZOOM meetings with Lodges. In the coming months the District Deputies will be reaching out to every Lodge to hold their 2nd Visits whether it be in person, by phone or by ZOOM.

### **SO...is your Lodge ready to ZOOM?**

My friends, the greatest challenge of the pandemic for the ELKS and ROYAL PURPLE ELKS is the inability to gather...to stay enthused and committed to ELKDOM. Fraternity means "the state or feeling of friendship and mutual support within a group of people sharing a common interest or goal". It's fellowship, kinship and solidarity... things we have been robbed of by this nasty virus. So, while change is difficult, I know we have the ability and the courage to be creative in learning how to manage the necessary changes that will make lives sweeter, people better and our communities happier.

In Elkdom,  
*Barbara Evans*

# Membership Corner

"Member Lethargy?!" What the h\*\*\* is that?" you might ask. It is an enemy of our Mission Statement: "A Canadian volunteer organization of men and women serving communities." and our Vision Statement: "To be the best volunteer organization in Canadian communities."

With the current situation in Canada, the ubiquitous and ruinous COVID-19 virus has hampered the efforts of many Lodges to conduct fundraising events in order to make contributions to our cherished communities. Much of this is beyond our control when jurisdictions impose restrictions on gathering sizes or even allow the gatherings period. This is very frustrating for us as volunteers. We must screw our thinking caps on and come up with unusual ways to raise funds and still maintain the restrictions....something I know we can do if we get creative. This leads me to the subject of my article, Member Lethargy (lethargy: the lack of enthusiasm).

Over the years, Lodges have trudged along their merry old way, holding our tried and true functions, making our money, donating it and starting all over again. That's all of a sudden gone. BUT, we cannot sit back and say, "There's nothing we can do about it with the restrictions, it's out of our control." We're too committed to take that route. There are lots of things we can do which are in our control!

Lodges meet (met) regularly to conduct their business; it was almost a **HABIT** that every two weeks or once a month on a prescribed day, there was a meeting. If we decide there's nothing to do and stop having meetings we will find out that we will fall out of the **HABIT** and our Lodges will suffer. Reality shows, cop shows, medical emergencies shows, Netflix, Crave and Prime on TV will become the new **HABIT**. DON'T LET IT HAPPEN IN YOUR LODGE!

Many Lodges are still conducting business as usual in regard to having meetings. It can be done very easily over a virtual service such as Zoom. I realize that not all members are computer literate but chances are there is a high number that have cell phones. Zoom meetings can be joined via audio quite easily and you don't need a computer, laptop or iPad; just your cell phone. The Alberta Elks Association is offering to set up meetings on a Zoom format for any Lodge. All that is needed is the members' email addresses. From there, each individual Lodge can make the phone option available. Contact Lynda Petten at the Association office by phone at 403-748-4922 or by email at [elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org) or snail mail at Box 445, Bentley, AB T0C 0J0.

Now that outdoor gatherings are allowed up to 10 people why not meet on someone's patio over a kettle of hot chocolate? It is important to stay connected. Remember the old saying "If you start stopping it is hard to stop stopping!"

Ian Sundquist  
Provincial Esquire  
Membership Committee Member



# Elks Proud



Ian McNeill, President Okotoks Elks #31, presenting cheques from Okotoks Elks Farmers Market 50/50 and Christmas Basket Raffle to Shannon and Brian Olson, organizers of the Okotoks School Lunch Program.

## Okotoks Elks #31

This was the first year of the Okotoks Elks Farmers Market. The Farmers Market initiative was driven by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on hall rentals and of course income. Brother Blair Davies volunteered to be the manager. The Elks Farmers Market ran every Saturday from July to mid-October. Late in the summer Brother Doug Lafont suggested we hold a 50/50 draw and sell tickets until the last Saturday. Funds raised would go to the Okotoks School Lunch Program. A decision was made in September to host a Christmas Farmers Market in mid-November. Thanks to a group of vendors who donated time and products to create a set of 3 Christmas baskets for a raffle. A draw was made at the end of the Christmas Market and again the proceeds went to the Okotoks School Lunch Program. Two cheques totalling \$1,836.50 were presented to Shannon and Brian Olson who started and currently manage the Okotoks School Lunch Program. A special thanks goes out to all the patrons, volunteers and Elks #31 members who donated their time throughout the summer and for the Christmas Farmers Market as well as the vendors who made their donations for a very worthy local cause.



Exalted Ruler Bro. Chad Bonertz of the Valleyview Elks #321 presenting cheque for \$500.00 to Hillside High School Football Club



Secretary Bro. Mike Irla of the Valleyview Elks #321 presenting a cheque for \$1000.00 to the Valleyview Red Willow Seniors Lodge



District Deputy Mike Irla presenting certificate of donations to Exalted Ruler Bro. Robert Overholt of Manning Elks Lodge #286 for the community of Manning







# Fort Saskatchewan Elks Team up with Canadian Blood Services

The Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge is part of the larger Service organization, The Elks of Canada and has been operating in the City of Fort Saskatchewan since 1958. Overall, the Fort Saskatchewan Elks raise money to assist in furthering the community through a variety of fundraising efforts and projects and their primary focus is on families and children.

Over the past 50 years the Elks have been involved in a number of events including, most recently, assisting with the monthly Blood Donor clinics hosted by Canadian Blood Services and took over the volunteer service portion of the events from the Rotary Club in June 2018.

50 Year lodge member and Chairman of the Clinic Committee Ron Ingram-Johnson commented that supporting the blood donor clinic was "Just another way of helping out a worthy cause. We really enjoy meeting everyone who comes out to the blood drives. We see how many people are helped by the donations and the impact it has on the community. There is such an amazing support for the clinic and to have them have to move because no one was able to assist would be terrible. We have the time and people to help out, so we stepped up. We really enjoy having the opportunity to be in our community and being able to represent our organization to more people really helps us out in the end.

I think that many people don't really know that much about the Elks overall, and having us present at events gives us, as members, the opportunity to share with them a little bit about what we do. All the members wear their Elks shirts and often a hat, or right now a mask with our Logo on it, inviting questions or comments from the clients coming into the clinic. We still have a lot of people who comment that they have heard of the Elks or know someone who was one, it's usually followed up by, "I didn't know you were still around!", it's a great Segway into sharing a bit about what we do. We love to share with everyone what we do and why we are members."

Before COVID-19, the Fort Saskatchewan Elks had 2-5 members helping out during the Blood Donor drives on a shift basis, with changes in the social distancing measures that has had to change a bit, but hasn't decreased the amount of enthusiasm the members have for helping out. "I still have the same group of members helping out each time we have a clinic, it's great to see the willingness they have to lend a hand for such a great cause". "We look forward to being able to help as long as they need us to, and hope there will be another group willing to step up when it's our turn to move onto another event".

Blood Donor drives are held in Fort Saskatchewan on an ongoing basis at varying locations. Up to date times and bookings can be found on the Canadian Blood Services website at; <https://myaccount.blood.ca>





# Just another day in Stavely...



L-to-R; Elaine Watt of Yellow Rose Youth Barrel Racing, \$250; Alfred Hansen, \$500 for Claresholm Legion Poppy Fund; Jackie Kark, \$500 for High School Awards Program; Glenda McNair, \$2500 for Claresholm and District Transportation Society; Stavely Elks #112 Secretary, Ian Sundquist doing the presentation.



Secretary Ian Sundquist of Stavely Elks #112 presenting a cheque to Tara Bishoff, Director of the Claresholm and District Health Foundation, for \$4000 for their annual fundraising "Gala" which did not happen because of COVID-19.



Secretary Ian Sundquist of Stavely Elks #112 presenting a cheque of \$1000 to Tara Bishoff for the Claresholm and District Health Foundation Chaplaincy Program.

Pictures were taken and are being used by permission of Rob Vogt of the Claresholm Local Press.



Stavely Elks Lodge E.R. Clayton Gillespie presenting a cheque of \$500 to Janae Blades of the Nanton Skating Club.



Stavely Elks Lodge E.R. Clayton Gillespie presenting a cheque of \$500 to Brian Stapley of the Nanton Legion for their Poppy Fund.





# Elks Proud

## Camrose Elks No.70



Camrose Elks Exalted Ruler Brother Garry Czapp was hard at work representing the Camrose Elks on November 9, 2020. Brother Czapp presented cheques too Camore Hospice Care (\$400.00), Camrose Oscar after school care program (\$400.00), Minor Sports Help Fund (\$400.00), Kinettes Club (\$300.00), Camrose Christmas Cheer Fund (\$400.00), 6th Camrose Traditional Scouting (\$750.00) on behalf of the lodge. Way to go Camrose.

### Newsletter Submissions Due by the 25th of Each Month!

Does your lodge have something they would like featured in the newsletter? Pictures from an event? Cheque Presentations? Coming events? We would be happy to share submissions for the monthly newsletter will be accepted no later than the 25th of each month. Any articles received after the 25th will be put in the newsletter the following month. Please send write up and pictures as two separate attachments.

Please keep in mind this is YOUR NEWSLETTER, so any lodge can submit articles and pictures. Submissions are to be sent to [elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org)



### EDMONTON MILK DROP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sherwood Park Elks are back doing pickups from our current, approved donor moms!



NorthernStar  
MOTHERS MILK BANK



/ <http://elks of alberta.ca> / [elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org)

# Foundation News

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE UPDATE 2021

On behalf of the Alberta Elks Foundation, I am sending you this update with regards to our current raffle. I realize that things have not gone quite according to plan with the extra lockdowns that we are experiencing with the second round of Covid-19. At this time, we are planning to leave dates etc. as they are, hoping that we will be able to get out to sell starting in February. PLEASE do not return any unsold books of tickets at this time. There is nowhere else to send them as we are all in the same boat. Keep them and try to do what you can when things are safe.

As you all know, the raffle is our mainstream of income for the Foundation and we cannot afford to lose on this. I have had some lodges who have managed to do quite well with sales, considering, but we need to sell at least 50% of our tickets to break even. From past experiences with our members, I have seen us sell a lot in a very short period of time and I hope this will ring true again in the next few months, as things open up.

The draw dates for the Early Bird Draws will currently remain the same. If needed I will apply to AGLC to delay the final draws as they are the ones that will require the most cash.

Thank you as always for your support, and please stay safe.

Sincerely  
Margo Ward  
Alberta Elks Foundation Raffle Chairperson



ALBERTA ELKS  
FOUNDATION

Alberta Elks Foundation  
REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

52nd ANNUAL RAFFLE

First Prize  
**\$30,000 CASH**

Second Prize  
**\$10,000 CASH**

Third Prize  
**\$5,000 CASH**

Fourth Prize  
**Fas Gas  
Gift Cards  
Value \$1500**

PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE ENABLE  
US TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO:

I.S.T.A.R. - Institute for Stuttering Treatment & Research  
Training, Research and Treatment of Stuttering in Children and Adults

Local Community Projects  
Support Local Minor Sports, Youth Groups, Playgrounds, etc.

Assistance to Underprivileged Children  
With Equipment to Live and Learn in Special Schools

Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children  
Supply Hearing Aids and Tests for Canadian Children

Tickets  
**\$2 OR 3\$5**  
each for

30% of all Ticket sales go directly back to the  
selling Lodges to invest in their communities

FINAL DRAW DATE JUNE 5, 2021

at Lakeside Leisure Centre, 111-4 Ave W., Brooks, AB T1R 1B7

Early Bird Draws

March 11, 2021  
\$500 Fas Gas Gift Card

April 8, 2021  
\$750 Fas Gas Gift Card

May 13, 2021  
\$750 Fas Gas Gift Card

All Early Bird Draws to take place at the Didsbury Elks Hall, 1914 - 20th St.  
Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

Tickets may only be purchased or sold within the Province of Alberta.  
Tickets not to be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years

**BROOKS  
CONFERENCE  
2021**

**June 3-5 2021**

**Brooks Alberta**

Hotels

Heritage Inns & Suites  
Heritage Inn & Convention Centre

Cost

Early Bird Before April 30, 2021 \$175.00  
May 1, 2021 \$200.00

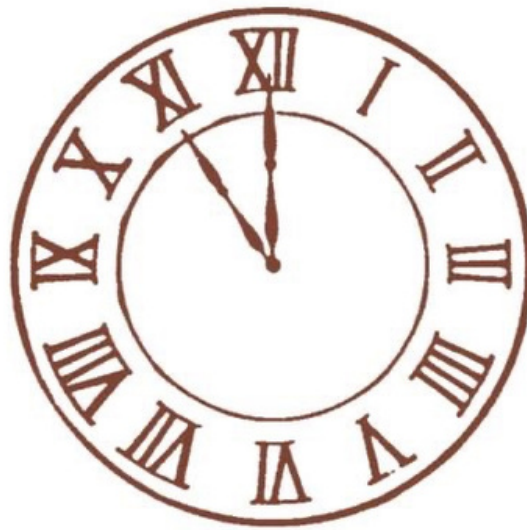
Meeting and socials at JBS Center



/http://elksfalberta.ca / elks.secretary@abelks.org



***"The clock of their day has stopped . . .  
across its face the motionless shadows mark the  
Hour of Eleven."***



It is with extreme sadness that we must inform you of  
the passing of

Brother Nestor Bohaichuk  
Mannville Elks Lodge  
December 30, 2020

Brother Ron Metrunc  
Myrnam Elks Lodge  
December 15, 2020

Brother Reg Saunders  
Dawson Creek Elks Lodge  
January 23, 2021

For their years of service and dedication to the Elks  
organization, they will always be remembered. Rest in  
peace Brothers and Sister

